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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's)
Rules to Allocate Additional Spectrum to the)
Inter-Satellite, Fixed, and Mobile Services)
and to Permit Unlicensed Devices to Use)
Certain Segments in the 50.2-50.4 GHz and)
51.4-71.0 GHz Bands)

ET Docket No. 99-261

REPLY COMMENTS OF HARMONIX CORPORATION

Harmonix Corporation ("Harmonix") files these Reply Comments in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ Harmonix manufactures point-to-point equipment for unlicensed use in the 59-64 GHz band.

Harmonix filed first-round comments in support of the Commission's proposal to allocate 57-59 and 64-66 GHz for unlicensed operation.² Hewlett-Packard Company and Nokia, Inc. also support this position.

Harmonix here replies to the Comments of the KaStar Companies (KaStar) and the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition (FWCC).

¹ Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Additional Spectrum to the Inter-Satellite, Fixed, and Mobile Services and to Permit Unlicensed Devices to Use Certain Segments in the 50.2-50.4 GHz and 51.4-71.0 GHz Bands, ET Docket No. 99-261, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 99-183 (released July 23, 1999) ("Notice").

² Notice at ¶¶ 15-18.

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KaStar: Inter-Satellite Operation at 65-66 GHz

KaStar asks the Commission not to allocate spectrum for unlicensed use at 65-66 GHz until it has adopted technical rules to ensure that unlicensed use will not limit the ability of FSS users to maximize use of the 65-71 GHz band.³

KaStar is being unreasonably cautious. The Commission proposed to allocate 65-71 GHz for intersatellite communications.⁴ It is inconceivable that terrestrial operations at powers low enough to qualify for unlicensed status could interfere with receivers at orbital altitudes.

The Commission's rules already prohibit unlicensed 59-64 GHz operation on aircraft or satellites.⁵ If it would help to resolve KaStar's concerns, Harmonix has no objection to extending this limitation to 65-66 GHz as well.

FWCC: LEC and CMRS Operation at 57-59 GHz

The FWCC opposes unlicensed operation at 57-59 GHz because it contemplates use of this band for interconnecting PCS base stations, and does not believe sufficient reliability can be achieved with unlicensed operation.⁶ The FWCC says the Commission should not rule out fixed links for use in mobile or CLEC networks in licensed spectrum.⁷

³ Comments of the KaStar Companies at 4 (filed Sept. 21, 1999).

⁴ Notice at ¶ 9.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 15.255(a)(1).

⁶ Comments of Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition at 3 (filed Sept. 21, 1999).

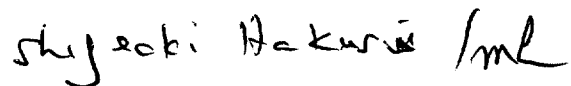
⁷ *Id.*

Harmonix would not oppose providing for licensed point-to-point operation in the 57-59 GHz band using narrowbeam antennas, so long as eligibility is restricted to local exchange carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service licensees, and sale of service to non-eligibles is prohibited. Unlicensed operation would be secondary to these licensees pursuant to Section 15.5(b). More extensive licensing, however, would limit the usefulness of the band for unlicensed operation.

■ ■ ■ ■

With these qualifications, Harmonix again urges the Commission to allocate 57-59 and 64-66 GHz for unlicensed operation.

Respectfully submitted,



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October 6, 1999

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